

COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 9
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 17, 2018

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty commercial sturgeon
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent reports are the 2018 Joint Staff Report Concerning Stock Status and Fisheries for Sturgeon and Smelt (January 18, 2018) and the 2018 Spring/Summer report (February 20, 2018):. Links to the on-line reports are: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

Sturgeon

- The 2018 sturgeon commercial harvest guidelines for Treaty fisheries in Zone 6 are 325 fish for the Bonneville Pool, 415 for The Dalles Pool, and 210 fish for the John Day pool.
- Fish harvested for subsistence use outside of commercial seasons are not part of the harvest guidelines but are accounted for. Subsistence harvest is generally low.

2018 TREATY INDIAN STURGEON FISHERIES

- 2018 treaty sturgeon catches are shown in the table below. There are 130 sturgeon remaining in the Bonneville Pool and 44 sturgeon remaining in the John Day Pool.

	Bonneville Pool	The Dalles Pool	John Day Pool	Total
Jan Setline	17	63	9	89
Winter Gillnet	64	352	140	556
June Setline	--	--	7	7
August Setline	114	--	10	124
Total	195	415	166	776
Guideline	325	415	210	
Remaining	130	0	44	

“—” indicates no fishery during this timeframe.

- The latest sturgeon setline opening was in the Bonneville Pool from August 6-25. 114 sturgeon were harvested in this opening.
- Based on catch rates in this opening, the planned fishery is expected to harvest less than the 130 sturgeon remaining on the commercial guideline.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

2018 Treaty Indian Commercial Sturgeon Setline Fishery

Season:	6 AM Wednesday October 17 to 6 PM Wednesday October 31
Area:	Bonneville Pool only
Sanctuaries:	Standard closed areas applicable to setline gear
Gear:	Setline Gear. Fishers are encouraged to use circle hooks and avoid J-hooks. It is unlawful to use setline gear with more than 100 hooks per set line, with hooks less than the minimum size of 9/0, with treble hooks, without visible buoys attached, and with buoys that do not specify operator and tribal identification.
Allowable Sales:	Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Sturgeon within the legal size limit and caught in the platform and hook and line fishery may only be sold if caught during the open period and open area of the set line fishery. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. It is unlawful to sell, barter, or attempt to sell or barter sturgeon eggs that have been removed from the body cavity of a sturgeon prior to sale of the sturgeon to a wholesale dealer licensed, or to sell or barter sturgeon eggs at retail. It is unlawful to deliver to a wholesale dealer any sturgeon that are not in the round with the head and tail intact.

- The tribes expect low effort and moderate catch in the proposed setline fishery and anticipate that based on this year's fishery and previous fall sturgeon fisheries, the catch to be less than the numbers the fish available in the Bonneville pool guideline.
- Catch will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. Fisheries will be closed earlier if harvest limits are projected to be met early.
- Young of the year sturgeon stock sampling is ongoing in Zone 6. Tribal staff and state staff are communicating on the schedule of this sampling and the tribes will work to inform fishers and avoid any conflicts.
- Mainstem platform and hook and line fisheries targeting salmon and steelhead are ongoing as well as some tributary fisheries. No other fisheries require Compact Action at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The treaty tribes will notify the States if an additional Compact Hearing is needed to address treaty fisheries.